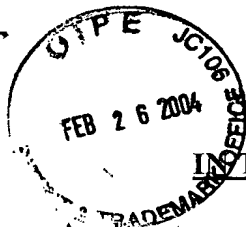


02-27-04

Atty. Docket No. 60,152-991



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Rick Ward, et al.

Serial Number: 10/691,677

Filed: October 23, 2003

Title: SELF-ATTACHING FEMALE FASTENERS AND METHOD OF  
FORMING FEMALE FASTENER ELEMENTS

Attorney Docket No.: 60,152-991

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Rule 97 and in compliance with Rule 56, Applicant hereby makes of record the items listed on the attached Form PTO/SB08A. Under the provisions set forth whereby the office waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Attorney for applicant is not submitting a copy of any of the noted references referred to on the enclosed PTO/SB08A, due to the fact that the above noted application was filed on October 23, 2003.

None of these items noted on the PTO/SB08A disclose the inventive concepts claimed in the subject application.

Should there be a fee associated with this document, please charge it to Deposit Account No. 08-2789. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory D. DeGrazia".

**Gregory D. DeGrazia, Reg. No. 48,944**  
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite 101  
39400 Woodward Avenue  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151  
Telephone: (248) 723-0325

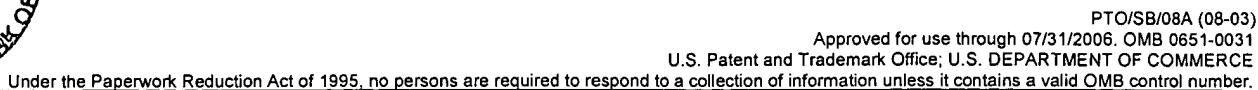
Dated: February 26, 2004



**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that the enclosed **Information Disclosure Statement** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," Mailing Label No. **EL998311185US** and addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **February 26, 2004**.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy L. Smith

**Complete if Known**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Application Number	10/691,677
Filing Date	10-23-03
First Named Inventor	Rick Ward et al.
Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	60,152-991

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.*